

R E M A R K S

The Office Action of March 9, 2006 has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is earnestly requested. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application, claims 21-24 being cancelled and claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 18 being amended by this response. Claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 18 are amended for clarification to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. The amendment of the claims is supported throughout the specification and by the original claims. No new matter has been added, and no excess claim fee is due.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statements that the Restriction Requirement has been withdrawn and that claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 19 and 25 are allowed.

The Examiner also states that claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 18 would be allowable, if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. Applicant has amended the claims for clarification, in response to the indefiniteness rejections, as helpfully suggested by the Examiner.

Clarification of the Status of Claim 20 Requested

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that, although claim 20 is listed in the Office Action Summary as being rejected, claim 20 appears to be mentioned nowhere else in the Office Action and is not rejected over any prior art. Therefore, Applicant cannot respond to any rejection of claim 20 and presumes that the Office Action Summary was a typographical error, and that the Examiner actually intended to indicate that claim 20 is allowed. Applicant believes that claim 20 currently is in condition for allowance, and thus requests the Examiner's confirmation in this regard.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16, 18 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 USC section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 21-24 are hereby cancelled and claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16 and 18 are hereby amended to overcome the rejections, as helpfully suggested by the Examiner. It is

respectfully submitted that the rejections are thus overcome and that there are no further ambiguities in the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections of claims 2, 6, 8, 11, 16, 18 and 21-24 are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC section 102(b) as being anticipated by Muldoon (5,520,030). Claim 21 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC section 102(b) as being anticipated by Lunau (5,056,753). Claim 22 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC section 102(b) as being anticipated by MacKarvich (5,797,226). Claim 23 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

As claims 21-23 are cancelled, is respectfully submitted that the rejections are thus overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21-23 under 35 USC section 102(b) as being anticipated are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being obvious over Lanka (6,776,383) in view of MacKarvich (5,797,226). Claims 23 and 24 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

As claims 23-24 are cancelled, is respectfully submitted that the rejections are thus overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 23-24 under 35 USC section 103(a) as being obvious are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the claims are patentable over the prior art, and that this case is in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the

Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

"Recognizing that Internet communications are not secured, I hereby authorize the PTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 28, 2006

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